

The 50 MHz DX Bulletin

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Reports Of Our Demise Are Somewhat Premature

50 MHz DX Bulletin

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Shel Remington
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Dear Shel,

As I have not heard from you for over four months, I must assume that you are relinquishing your position as editor of The 50 MHz DX Bulletin, and that if the bulletin is to continue on a timely basis that I must take over that task as well. Please let me know if such is not the case, but I, and the six meter gang have waited far too long.

Accordingly, would you please send me ASAP any changes to the membership rolls since the one you sent in January 1993, along with anything you wish to be printed in the next issue. My tentative deadline is May 8.

At your service,

Victor R. Frank, K6FV, publisher

Where Do We Go From Here?

The 50 MHz DX Bulletin was founded by Harry Schools, KA3B. In 1991 Harry and Bob Cooper, ZL4AAA passed the reins to Shel Remington, NI6E/KH6. When Shel found it impossible to get decent two-sided copy service locally, he arranged with me to publish the bulletin. I noted with alarm his untimely output, and tried to assist by publishing information he had not written. Until September 1992, I thought we were doing pretty well, 8 issues in 8 months. Not the 18 issues/year that Bob had promised in the ads he placed in QST and CQ magazines, but a reasonable output. My additions to the bulletin were not appreciated by Shel, and to the extent that these caused Shel to drop interest I express my apologies to him and you.

Why are we here? A bulletin or newsletter's purpose is to get specialized information and news out promptly, usually to a limited readership. The VHF DX gang has found the limited coverage and time delay in getting material into QST a thorn in their sides. And don't blame Bill or Emil, QST has to be all things to all amateurs, and although you may disagree with the League on the size of their allocation to VHF, some allocation is necessary.

I became aware of Jack Lynch's VHF column in CQ magazine late last year. For some reason, CQ was giving him space, much more space than we were getting in QST. I was impressed. Still, even CQ typically takes three

months or so to get material into the reader's hands after they receive the author's manuscript.

If we put out a bulletin every three or four months, we are no more timely to the 50 MHz gang than QST or CQ. Why should reporters send material to us when QST and CQ have readerships in the tens of thousands, perhaps over 100,000?

Don't Send Money Anytime Soon

But do send me reports of 6m DX worked and planned, and material that would be of interest to the 6m DXer. I can't gather all this information over the air like Shel could. I simply just don't have the time or location.

Understand, it is not I, nor Shel, nor Harry who are the "owners" of the 50 MHz DX Bulletin. The owners are the active 50 MHz DX community, the hams who submit material, build or operate beacons, go on DX-peditions, and just work DX. If enough of you want to see the tradition carried on, it will continue without Shel or me.

The 50 MHz DX Bulletin does not have enough subscribers to be profitable, that is, to pay anyone a salary. At the present time it must be a labor of love. It should collect enough to pay printing and postage, however. In January, I promised to print whatever issues Shel could crank out this year. I propose now to catch up with monthly issues by the end of this year. I plan to do this by sending each month a timely issue together with a predated issue of material that has little time value (or is immortal?).

Since I do not know how supportive you readers will be, or how heavy the load will be, I am asking that you not send subscription money to either Shel or myself at this time. Forget about the expiration date on your mailing label (unless it does not reflect money paid to Shel this year). If I decide that we really can pull this off, I'll send you a bill at year's end. Perhaps the reason I got so ticked off at Shel is that an irregular publication schedule really messes up the book-keeping. Since I stand to lose quite a bit of change, I will be sending subscribers in the U.S.A. their issues by third class mail. Two to three weeks probably isn't going to make much difference to most of our readers in the U.S.A.; however, If you absolutely must have it by first class mail, send me reports, articles, or a fin to cover the mailing. I was considering mailing by surface to our outside-the-U.S.A. subscribers, but two-to-six months is too long a delay. Oh yes, if you don't want to see the bulletin cross your mailbox again, just write; I'll understand and wipe your bits off our floppies.

My interests are the ionosphere and propagation, rather than DXCC. I understand that many of our readers interests are probably the other way, and so I'll try to hold the hard stuff down to 50%. To help us along, send us material you'd like to see in the bulletin, articles on modification of 6m gear, beacon controllers, automatic propagation monitors, 6m DX-peditions and full-scale photos.

News of Africa

Algeria: Nabil, 7X2KT hopes to be QRV on 6m soon. The PTT recently released the band to amateur operation. He is building a homebrew station and will be back in Algiers (JM16) in June/July. Tnx UKSMG.

Ethiopia: ET3DX has been worked from Europe. He was QRV until the end of April, but is said to be returning later in the year. According to April 93 *VHF-UHF DXer* (VUDX) he has around 400w into "some" yagis.

Ivory Coast: TU2EW was worked by PY2DJC March 6 at 2002Z, and by PY0FM March 9 between 2317-2324Z.

Libya: According to April 93 *Six News* (UKSMG), Romeo, 3W3RR was planning to active from Libya in early April. This, and a later operation that month from Tunisia were primarily HF expeditons; but 6m has, in the past, been aired on Romeotrips. QSL to; Box 812, Sofia 1000, Bulgaria.

Malawi: The 7Q7SIX beacon has now been completed and John, 7Q7JL, was to have collected it during his UK visit in April/May. It runs about 5w on 50.003 MHz and signs "7Q7SIX Malawi KH75" at 20 wpm. The beacon will be located on the Southwest shore of Lake Malawi at Club Makokola, the QTH of 7Q7LA.

Alan, G0IAS, would like to remind stations that he is QSL manager for 7Q7RM, LA, and JL. Please send an SASE with QSL as Alan states he is not a registered charity!! Tnx UKSMG.

Morocco: CN8ST was worked by PY2DJC on March 5 at 2225Z. CN8CC was worked by PY2DJC and heard by T12NA on March 6 at 0042Z and 0100Z respectively. CN8CC and CN8HB were worked by PY2DJC on March 7 at 2004Z.

Mozambique and Madagascar: Hal, ZS6WB has sent 50 MHz radios to C91J and 5R8DG, respectively. It is hoped they will be active by the time you read this. Tnx UKSMG.

Namibia: The V51VHF 6m beacon was heard by FC1MXE on March 8, and by DL7QY on March 25 around 1040Z.

Somalia: Nick, 6O/G3KOX reports no QSOs on 6m during his recent stay in Somalia. In fact, nothing was heard, not even a beacon! Tnx UKSMG.

South Africa: FC1MXE in JN05 reported hearing ZS9A on March 5 (his first TEP of the season) and working into ZS6 on March 8. Klaus, DL7QY reported working ZS6s on March 25. Tnx VUDX.

Tunisia, 3V: In March, Geoff, GJ4ICD received a letter from a military adviser to the PTT in Tunis that his request for a 50 MHz spot frequency for research work was denied, however another avenue via SMC has emerged and although plans are cancelled at present, it is hoped that things may change in the very near future. Tnx UKSMG.

Western Sahara: PY2DJC reports working S0RASD on March 3 at 0012Z, with 55 reports each way. The W6GO/K6HHD list confirms this unusual call and indicates QSL via EA2JD.

News of Antarctica

VK0AQ at Casey Base is active with an IC-505 + 80W and a 3 el yagi. QSL VK3OT. Tnx UKSMG.

News of Asia

Brunei: V85PB was worked by Pete, P29CW, Papua New Guinea (Q123WQ) on March 15 during an exceptional, long-lasting opening to JA (was still open at 1400Z). Tnx VUDX.

Cambodia (Kampuchea): XU5DX, Eric Jauch, Sihanoukville/Kampong Som, Cambodia is there with the French Battalion. He was heard (sometime) by P29CW. XU0UN, Ross, has moved to near the Thai border in Panteay Meanrith, OK14 or thereabouts. He is again putting up antennas, including a 6m rhombic aimed at VK4. Steve, VK3OT, has kindly organized the shipping of a 5 element yagi to Ross as well. QSLs via VK3OT. Tnx VUDX. A later report from UKSMG indicates XU5DX is listening on 50.110 every day with a 2 element quad, 17m AGL and 80W output. Propagation has mainly been to Japan, with a little into VK. The VS6 and DU beacons are often heard, but live stations are rarely QRV. Eric will be in Cambodia until July. His beacon runs daily from 0800 to 1000 UTC on 50.105 MHz signing "XU5DX OK10GP".

Hong Kong: P29CW reports the VS6SIX beacon was heard during the March 15 opening, and he just missed VS6XMQ on SSB. Tnx VUDX.

Japan: P29CW reports the following Japanese beacons heard during the March 15 opening: JA2IGY, JA6YBR, JA7ZMA. He also reported loud signals at 49.750 and 48.250 (assumed to be Sarawak). Tnx VUDX. PY2DJC reports working JS6CDB on March 21 at 0006Z.

Kuwait: 9K2ZR, 9K2WR, and 9K2USA are all currently active on 6m. QSL 9K2ZR and 9K2USA via K8EFS. QSL 9K2WR: c/o Amy Nutt, 5005 Willow Rock Way, Sacramento, CA 95841-4912 USA. 9K2ZC, who worked many Europeans last summer is now identified by a QSL received by Arne, SM7AED as Thomas A. Schrage, KJ0K, American Embassy, Kuwait, NLO Unit 69000 Box 13, APO AE 09880-9000 USA. Tnx UKSMG.

Sabah, Malaysia: The 1993 Camel Trophy takes place from April 10 through the end of May. During this time, G4CVI and Co. hope to find time to be QRV on 6m from G4SMC/9M6 with an FT650. Tnx UKSMG.

Philippines: P29CW reported hearing the DX1HB beacon during the March 15 opening. Tnx VUDX.

Russia: According to April 93 *Six News*, UW0ST has received a license for 50 MHz, but has no rig at the moment. His locator is OO06 in zone 18. If anyone can help, please contact Yuri A Maltcev, PO Box 2304, 665700 Bratsk, Russia. Tnx UKSMG.

Taiwan: P29CW also reports hearing BV2DQ on CW (about 30 wpm) near the end of the March 15 opening. Tnx VUDX.

News of Europe

Andorra: The UKSMG announces that Fred, C31HK, will be active on 6m this summer. He received his permit some time ago but has not been in a position to activate the band up until now. The UKSMG has been working with Fred, through regular 20m skeds over the past couple of months and with the kind support of Roger at RN Electronics, the group has purchased a transverter, which has been modified to work with an Icom 725. This has been loaned to Fred for the next few months. The QTH of C31HK is at approximately 4400 ft ASL!

Note that his frequency allocation is 50.200 to 51.200 MHz. Under no circumstances will he operate out of band. Fred would also like to remind stations that **no reciprocal licenses have ever been issued for 6m in Andorra**, and any past activity was not authorized. In fact, one of the reasons why it has taken so long for Andorra to appear on 6m is because of the problems of a past operation. Tnx UKSMG.

Belarus, UC:UKSMG has loaned a RN electronics transverter to UC2AAA, who, they hope will be QRV from May onwards. UC2AAA is known as the "Chernobyl Doctor". He is a doctor of sciences, working in the Chernobyl area, and is active as EU10, EV1S, and EW1C from the Chernobyl 20 mile ghost zone (which lies part in UC and part in UB5). He has recently been active from the yard of the power plant. This area is no problem for 6m operations as it is uninhabited, so nobody is watching TV HI!! Special thanks to PA3BFM for his support and PA2VST for technical modification. Tnx UKSMG.

Canary Islands: EH8ACW has been QRV on 6m. PY2DJC reports working him on March 2 at 2140Z. TI2NA reports hearing him on March 3 at 0025Z. PY0FM worked him on March 5 at 0025Z. PY2DJC reports additional contacts on March 14 and 16 at 1950Z.

Denmark: OZ3ZL and OZ4VV were reported being heard in northern England during the aurora of March 11. Tnx UKSMG.

France: FC1MXE (6' south of the UK) didn't report his first Transequatorial Propagation (TEP) of the year until March 5, to ZS9A. Readers should also be aware that the official French 6m allocation starts at 50.200, and they have chosen 50.210 MHz as a calling frequency. Tnx UKSMG.

Germany: DK5UG reported working VK4FP on February 21 at 0840Z. Tnx UKSMG.

Gibraltar: PY2DJC reports working ZB0Z on March 21 at 1917Z with 59 signals both ways.

Greece: PY2DJC reports working SV1DH, SV1AHX, and SV1EO on March 5 around 2217Z.

UKSMG reports that there is a good possibility that during the next three months, an extension to 6m privileges may be granted in Greece. At present, permits are limited to the Athens area. It is hoped that this extension will include SV5 (Rhodes) and SV9 (Crete). If permission is forthcoming in time for the Es season, an operation from one, or both of these countries may be possible.

Iceland: LA6HL is planning to operate from various grids in IP and HP fields using the call TF/LA6HL from July 9 to July 29. Tnx UKSMG.

Jan Mayen Is: JX7DFA went QRT on April 15, taking his 50 MHz gear home with him. JX3EX has the remains of a three element beam destroyed during a recent storm and 100W PA, but no exciter. LA1QCA has donated an IC505 and is hoping to get a 5 element beam in time for Es season.

Late news from UKSMG: Terje, JX3EX has just advised us on 20m that he will be back in Norway for a short stay from April 17-24. He then flies back to Jan Mayen, where he will remain until October 1993. 6m equipment will be collected during his visit to Norway and he is very much looking forward to putting his spare time into 6m on his return to IQ50. At present, there are only 15 people living on the island, so radio will be the main pastime.

Luxembourg: LX1JX reports hearing the ZD8VHF beacon on March 18 at 1150Z. Tnx UKSMG.

Madeira: PY0FM reports working CT3FT, Cedric, (IM13TA) on March 8 (2250-2359Z), and March 9 (2317-2324Z). Neil, G0JHC, reports that Cedric will be QRV on 6m throughout the summer instead of taking his usual trip north to GI. He runs an FT221R through an RN Electronics transverter and a HL-166V amp. Antenna is three elements on a 50 ft tower. QSL info: Cedric J. Rourke, Box 86, P-9400, Porto Santo, Madeira. (via Portugal). Tnx VUDX and UKSMG.

Poland: SP5CCC indicates that 6m is now available to radio amateurs throughout Poland. All license classes have access to the band 50-52 MHz with SSB and CW. Output power is limited to 10W PEP with no antenna restrictions. If no TVI is reported, output power could soon be raised to 200W. Tom, SP5CCC expects around 100 stations to be QRV by the summer time. Dennis, DL6NVC, plans to operate as SO1NVC on 6m from JO73JH. Activity will take place throughout the summer and mainly on Tuesdays. Equipment will be a FT690RII and Delta-Loop. QSL to DL6NVC, Dennis Hennig, Stettiner Str 35, D-2100 Pasewalk, Germany. Tnx UKSMG.

Portugal: TI2NA reports hearing the CT0WW beacon on March 10 or 11, FSK on 50.030 MHz.

Russia: UL8GC (ex UL7GCC), Mike, will be QRV from MO60 using the callsign UL8GC/RL2B for about three months starting mid May. He will also be visiting the RA3A club station in Moscow towards the end of July and will try and obtain permission to operate from there. Tnx UKSMG.

Slovenia: G4ASR (and others) worked S59UN on meteor scatter on April 18. Tnx VUDX.

Spain: PY2DJC reports working: EH7AH (March 7, 2207Z); EH7AC (March 9, 1922Z); EH7AC, EH7CD, EH7AG, EH3DZG (March 13, 1942-1944Z); EH7ERS, EH7ESB, EH7UH, EH5CJ, EH5OE, EH9MH, & EH3ADW (March 21, 1914-1947Z).

The April Six News has a picture of EA9IB/EH9IB, who reports 414 6m QSOs with 309 different stations in 34 DXCC countries since July 18 of last year.

Svalbard: The club station JW5E has a five element beam ready for use whenever 6m equipment is available. It has been donated by LA2G (3Y5X/3Y2GV) and is mounted on a steel tube some 2m above the club station roof. If someone would climb the 100 ft HF tower, (and install the antenna there), it would obviously improve things as high mountains are to the south. Tnx UKSMG.

Switzerland: Various rumors have recently been circulated by an HB9 station suggesting Switzerland now has a 24 hr 6m allocation. Pierre Pasteur, HB9QQ, would like it to be known that this is **not** true. The situation remains that 6m amateur transmissions are only allowed "outside TV hours." This restricts operation to between 0000-0500Z approx. Permits last until December 1994.

Ukraine: Frank, PA3BFM, has been in touch with a group of Ukrainian amateurs from Kiev. They are interested in 50 MHz and will apply for a permit. The contact point is UT5UQN from the UT4UXU club station.

Vatican: HV4NAC (North American College) is QRV from the Vatican. Ugo is installing a 6m beam, so operations can take place at any time through out the coming months. QSL via IK0FVC. Tnx UKSMG.

News of North America

Anguilla: see DX-pedition News.

Costa Rica: TI2NA had a productive March according to a log which he sent of PY, CX, FY7, ZD8, and LU beacons. He observes regularly between 2330Z and 1400Z. During this period most signals are heard between 0000Z and 0400Z. PY2DJC reports hearing him March 7 at 2103Z; N6CA March 11 at 2140Z; and on March 24 N6CA and K6QXY report hearing him at 0324Z and working TI7DBS. March 25 and 26 FO5DR reports hearing the TI2NA beacon.

Florida: PY2DJC reports the following 6m stations between January 12 2355Z and January 13 0032Z: KJ4E, WD4IXD, WB4NPH.

Grenada: PY2DJC reports working J37AE January 15 at 0157Z. Jimmy's DXpedition to J37AV is reported elsewhere in this issue. Chip, N6CA, reports working him on April 8.

Guadeloupe Is.: See DX-pedition News.

Jamaica: PY2DJC reports working 6Y5IC on March 8 at 0003Z.

Louisiana: VR6JJ reports hearing the W5VAS beacon March 31 between 1830Z and 1900Z.

Mexico: N6CL is going to XE2MOO in Ojinaga in DL79 (due S of El Paso) from May 28 to 31. See the DX-pedition News section for Yucatan, Revilla Gigedo, and Guadalupe. Also see Grid Expeditions for XE2AWK.

Puerto Rico: PY2DJC reports NP4PD January 11 at 0035Z and January 31 at 0022Z, and WP4ARJ on January 30 at 0044Z. PY0FM reports WP4KJJ and KP4EOR March 8 between 2250Z and 2259Z, and KP4BZ and NP4NP March 9 (same opening) between 0000-0110Z. WA5QCP reports working KP4BZ on February 22, 1992 at 1633Z. His QSL took a while to arrive, the envelope bearing a September 1, 1992 postmark. The return address shows a zip code of 00648, not 00738 as mentioned in one of our bulletins. (Perhaps a typing error). The rest of the address is the same.

St. Paul Is.: See DX-pedition News.

Texas: W5OZI reports N5JHV, K5IXE, and W5NZS in on backscatter (from the south) on March 13 around 2139Z.

Virgin Is.: PY0FM reports hearing/working NP2EG on March 8 between 2250 and 2359Z.

News of Oceania

Australia: DK5UG reports working VK4FP on February 21 at 0840Z. Tnx UKSMG. P29CW reports hearing the VK8VF beacon (at Darwin) during the March 15 big opening. Tnx VUDX.

Hawaiian Is.: PY2DJC reports working AH6LR on January 13 at 0113Z.

Kwajalein: P29CW reports hearing V73SC March 15. Tnx VUDX.

New Zealand: N6CA reports working ZL4AAA and ZL2AGI on March 18.

Palmyra/Kingman Reef: See DX-pedition News.

Tahiti: FO3BM worked VR6JJ on March 24 at 0721Z, both beaming at KH6. VR6JJ had been hearing him around 0800-0900Z. FO5DR had no knowledge of FO3BM's activities, and was unable to locate him on Papeete, thinks he was on Moorea. See FO5DR's observations on page 8.

Pitcairn: VR6JJ, in one of the more successful and longest DX-peditions (in the western hemisphere) this year, has worked 33 countries and 6 U.S. states at last count. See late information in DX-pedition News. Most of our correspondents this month worked VR6JJ, some (N6XQ and J37AV) reported him in almost daily.

Here are some of the other reports: N6CA, February 21, March 22; TI2NA, February 27 & 28, 0220-0300Z, March 27 and 28 2335-0200Z, April 4, 0305Z, April 5, 2252-2400Z; WA6BYA, March 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 2339-0051Z; W5OZI, March 22 & 23 around 2330-0000Z, direct, March 27, 2143Z beaming towards LU (he was beaming towards ZP), March 31, 2328-2354Z; PY0FM, March 10, 2335Z; PY2DJC, March 20, 2027Z.

News of South America

Argentina: N6CA reported 6m open to LUs on March 8 from 1920-2023Z, also March 9, 10, 11, 15, and April 28 from 2241-2230Z. Specific stations reported by PY2DJC: LU1MAF, January 24 at 0118Z, LU2EIO and LU9AEA, January 25 at 2141Z. Stations reported by TI2NA: LU1MA/B, 50.0846 MHz, February 14 0000-0200Z; LU8YYO/B, 50.0327 MHz, February 19 2345Z; LU1DMA, April 4, 0300Z. Stations reported by PY0FM: LU5JAU, LW4DIR, LU2EIO, March 8, 2250-2359Z; LU3EX, LU1DMA, LU9AEA, LU2EIO, LU1BAO, LU9EHF, March 10 1705-1711Z; LU3EMK, LU2DEK, LU4EBC, LU9MA, LU8DJK, LU7FDZ, March 16, 0027-0115Z. Stations reported by W5OZI: LU1VK, March 13, 1957Z; LU2EID and LU4DHD, March 20, 2008Z; LU8YYO, March 27, 2006Z.

Aruba: PY2DJC reports P40FF January 27 at 0019Z; P43FM January 29 at 2359Z; and P43TAT February 28 at 0059Z. N6CA reports P43FM March 30.

Ascension Is.: TI2NA reports the ZD8VHF beacon in February 13, 0000-0030Z; February 14, 0000-0100Z; February 17, 0000-0020Z; February 23, 0000-0040Z; March 6, 0000-0120Z; March 16, 0000-0100Z; March 18, 0010-0100Z.

Aves Is.: From WA5QCP: Regarding W5FF not receiving his YX0AI card; try again, since mine arrived last fall. It did take a while, as the cards were apparently printed after the DX-pedition was over. Ed-The March 17 W6GO/K6HHD list shows QSL info as YX0AI-YV5ARV, 1909 North 41st Avenue, Hollywood Hills, FL 33021. Seems to me this one (or another) required IRC (and maybe SAE) as the cards were sent to South America from this forwarding address.

Brazil: Judging by the number of calls worked, Brazil and Argentina are the main sources of 6m activity in South America. Brazil is **big!!** It straddles the geomagnetic equator. I must get out a map and new callbook and locate the stations listed in the following reports.

TI2NA reports both PY1AA and PY2AA beacons on 50.059 MHz and PY2AMI on 50.0765 MHz in 16 evenings

during February between 0000-0300Z generally. During the month of March six was open to PY1 or PY2 19 evenings. He also reports PY0FF February 12 at 0030Z. By April, openings had diminished, he reports PY2AA only April 4 at 0100Z and April 5 from 0000-0020Z. N6CA reports PP5WL in on March 8 between 1920-2023Z. FO5DR reports both the PY2AA and PY2AMI beacons in on March 13 at 2200-2210Z. W5OZI reports working PP5WL (559) on March 27 at 2028Z with both beaming at Argentina.

Now some of you readers may not consider QSOs in the same country to be DX, but, as I wrote earlier, Brazil is a big country. PY2DJC reports PW8PA January 31 at 0026Z; and PP7AAD February 16 at 0050Z. PY0FM reports PP5BC, PY2DSC, PY2PA, PY2SFY, PY2XW, and PY3RBY/2 March 8 between 2250-2359Z; and PY2GNS March 9 0001-0110Z. PY0FM also reports PY3ASN March 14 at 2350Z; and PU3WPA and PY2DWP on March 15 2343Z; and PY2GNS, PY2VA, PY2NFT, PU2WCZ, and PY4ACE on March 16 (same opening) 0027-0115Z.

Chile: W5OZI reports working CE8BHI in FD46 March 18 at 1842Z. TI2NA reports XQ0X on March 8 at 0320Z and PY2DJC reports XQ0X on March 20 at 2010Z.

Columbia: PY2DJC reports HK4BHA on January 31 0136Z.

Falkland Is.: Adrian, G0KOM (ex ZC4MK) will be QRV from the Falkland Is. on all bands (including 6m of course!) from May 21 for about four months. He hopes to obtain the call VP8SIX, but this is not yet confirmed. QSL via his home call G0KOM and cards will only be answered on his return to the UK. Tnx UKSMG.

French Guiana: TI2NA reports the FY7THF beacon in February 13 from 0000-0050Z; February 17 until 0020Z; March 5 from 0200-0350Z; March 6 from 0000-0145Z; March 7 2235Z-March 8 0150Z; March 11, 0000-0200Z; March 16, 0000-0330Z; March 18, 0000-0200Z; March 19, 0030-0140Z; March 28, 0030-0100Z; March 30, 0050-0145Z.

Netherland Antilles: PJ9JT in Curacao was worked by PY2DJC on January 13 at 0103Z and was reported by PY0FM on March 9 from 0001-011Z.

Paraguay: PY0FM reports working six ZP stations on March 8 between 2250-2359Z and ZP5PT on March 9 0001-0110Z. On March 16, PY0FM reports ZP5JCY and ZP5PT between 0027 and 0115Z. On March 18 PY0FM reports ZP6VT at 0013Z. W5OZI reports working ZP5ZR (44) March 27 at 2100Z with both stations pointed at LU.

Trinidad: PY2DJC reports working 9Y4VAN on January 12 at 2350Z.

Uruguay: We have reception reports of only two beacons, CX1CCC (50.0189) and CX8BE (50.0469). TI2NA reports CX1CCC on 16 evenings in February; 23 evenings in March; April 4 weak at 0100Z; and April 5 at 2115Z. He reported the CX8BE beacon March 27 at 0035Z.

N6CA reports the CX1CCC beacon on March 8, 1920-2023Z; and April 22, 1954-1959Z. PY0FM reports the CX1CCC beacon March 10 at 1705-1711Z. He reports the CX8BE beacon on March 9, 0001-0110Z; and March 16, 0027-0115Z.

Venezuela: The YV4AB beacon was reported by PY0FM March 8 from 2250-2359Z. K6ODV heard the YV4AB beacon on March 26. See page 8 for observations by FO5DR.

Beacon News

United Kingdom: The RSGB GB3LER 6m beacon at Lerwick in the Shetland Islands (IP90JD) is reported QRV again on 50.0639 MHz with 45 W and a N/S dipole. GB3LER is also on 144.965 MHz and 432.965 MHz. Reports to GM4IPK. Tnx VUDX.

Anguilla: N6XQ is planning to install a 6m beacon which he built, VP2EA/B, at VP2EHF's QTH in June. The beacon will run 50 W to a J-pole on 50.011 MHz

Mexico: XE2HWP at LaPaz (DL43), 50.0078 MHz, 10 W to a Delta loop was put together by N6XQ and N6CA. XE2UZL at San Quintin (DM10), 50.028 MHz, 25 W was built by N6XQ. The latter is solar powered and the duty cycle is varied depending on the battery charge. N6CA reports it made it through last winter.

Costa Rica: TI2NA reports that a high power paging service transmitter on 49.950 MHz was recently installed at San Jose and appends the notation "Poor wireless telephone owners".

Other: beacons are being constructed by N6XQ/N6CA. N6CA reports that the V73AT keyer was reprogrammed with V73AR, but somebody misappropriated the beacon power supply. If the situation isn't remedied soon, he threatens to get it back and send it elsewhere. Anybody in Central America or the Caribbean interested in becoming caretaker for a 6m beacon? Contact N6CA.

DX-pedition News

Anguilla

Chip, N6CA, reports that Terry, N6CW is planning to do the June VHF QSO party from VP2E, perhaps showing up a couple days in advance.

Revilla Gigedo Island (DK28)

According to February 1993 West Coast VHFer, XE1GGR, Raphael, and his DX group were going to activate XE4, Revilla Gigedo around February 16-28, 1993 including six meters with calling frequency of 50.125. QSLs to XE1JD.

One of my HF DX buddies reports, "Yes there was an expedition there this spring," but no one knows of anybody working them on 6m.

Isla De Guadalupe

Jack Henry, N6XQ has joined the much-postponed Isla De Guadalupe DX-pedition. They left Ensenada May 13 and they should be on the air from May 14 through May 18. The call is XF1DG and the grid square DL08/09.

Isla De Guadalupe rises some 4200 foot peak from the ocean. It is approximately 350 miles south of Los Angeles. Jack was going to take equipment for six, two, 223.5 FM, 432, and 10,368 MHz.

Late news: the HF gang decided to locate in a valley on the far side of the 4200 foot peak. Nevertheless, they worked a lot of tropo. WA6BYA snagged them on 6m on May 15, and they worked as far north as Pt. Reyes on 2 m.

Cancun, Yucatan, Mexico

According to N6CA, N6XQ and W5OZI are planning to operate at the QTH of XE3EB at Cancun, Mexico in EL61 for the June contest. Cancun (on the Yucatan peninsula) has a

700 mile over-the-water shot to the W4 and W5 Gulf coast.

Baker and Howland Is.

The "definite" KH1 operation went late January and early February with the N6AMG memorial station, and even had a moonbounce sked with K6QXY. Bob indicates that he knows of no North American 6m contacts, but thinks they worked JAs and perhaps South America. Any confirmations?

Palmyra/Kingman Reef

Reports are that the March KH5K DX-pedition, beset by boat scheduling and weather problems, never even turned the 6m rig on. K6QXY reports that part of the 6m gear went to Palmyra and part to Kingman and that of this date (May 13) some pieces still have not been returned. In May CQ magazine's Zero Bias, editor K2EEK deplores the antics of 6 or 7 miscreant HFers on the DX'ers calling frequency. I hope that this kind of stuff does not spread to the 6m gang.

VR6JJ Stuck On Pitcairn

Shades of ZK3TPY (ZL2TPY) on Nukunono atoll in the Tokelaus! Nob, VR6JJ, is reported to have missed the boat that was supposed to pick him up and take him to Auckland, and thence to the South Cook Islands. He has taken the six meter station down because he may have only two hours warning to meet the next (cargo) boats. See News of Oceania for information on who he worked.

German-Belorussian VHF-DXpedition 1993

From March 1993 *VHF-UHF DXer* we learn that a group of VHF operators has received their license, and plan to operate from the Belarus Republic from June 20-July 3 1993 (± 2 days) from grid squares KO33, KO43, KO42, and KO41 on two and six meters.

The call signs will be UC1AWZ, EV5B, EV5C, EV5D, EV5K, EV5M, and EV5N depending on QRG and QTH. Operators will be DL9YE, DL5BAC, UC2AKP, the crew of UC1AWZ and perhaps UC2AAB.

Glorioso Island

The DXCC desk is currently rejecting FR/DJ3OS/G QSLs. Reason given: "No Documentation Received"

Jimmy Does Grenada, J37AV

James Treybig, W6JKV, combined honeymoon and DX-pedition on Grenada from March 31 to April 10. In a telephone conversation on May 9, he reported working 21 stations from J37AV on 2 meter EME with one 54' M² yagi.

He had the usual trans-equatorial propagation, with VR6JJ being in almost every day, and two openings to the U.S.A., during which he worked 14 W5s, 2 W6s (N6XQ & N6CA in So. CA), one W7, one XE. Other countries worked on six meters included J37(AE), LU, CE, KP4, and PY.

4 P.M. local time appeared to be the optimum time, with the band open to either the South or West. Many stations were worked on sidescatter (non-direct beam headings).

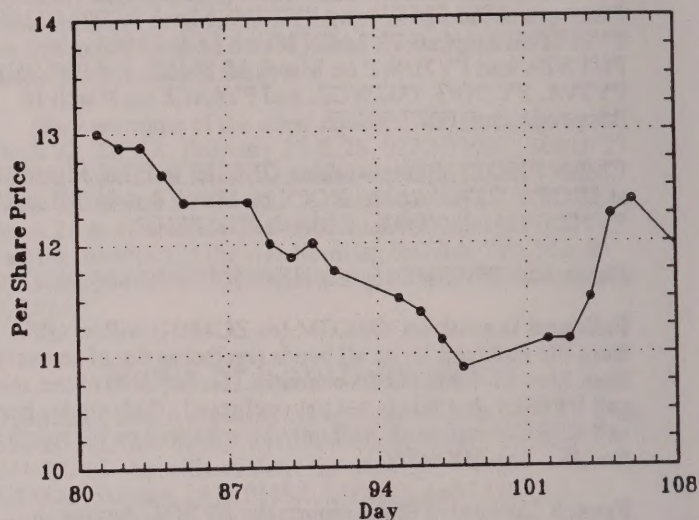
Jimmy indicates that although he was not at the rig all the time (it was his honeymoon {2nd marriage} after all), that he noted both poorer propagation from previous years and less activity. Still there was lots of life left in the six meter band. He felt that lots more DX could have been worked, however high power and big antennas were almost a necessity this year.

Cayman Islands

Jimmy is planning to visit the Cayman Islands (ZF1) for the ARRL VHF QSO party and perhaps the previous week. He is also planning a Caribbean trip for the July 4 weekend, but hasn't decided just where yet.

Tandem Computers Stock Slides

Is it possible there is a relation between the distance and time CEO James Treybig spends away from Tandem Computers and the price of its stock on the New York Stock Exchange? Presented below, for your amusement and consideration are the closing stock prices for Tandem during Jimmy's Grenada trip.



Tandem Computers (3/21 - 4/18/93)

Grid Expeditions

Pat Rose, W5OZI, advises us of his "Almost Annual Grid Expedition" plans for 1993? Tentative trip to XE2-land, July 1-6, beginning in DL 98, then to DL97, 96, 95 & ?? Frequency while in Mexico 50.115 & 144.200. His probable call sign is XE2AWK, and he hopes to get XE hams in some of these grids interested in weak signal VHF. Operators Pat, W5OZI; Paul, K5AWK/XE2AWK; and John, KB5IUA.

Dave, N8NQS, and his dad Dave, K8WKZ, will be operating from Michigan and Quebec from June 20-25. The call sign will be K8WKZ/VE2. Primary operating frequency is 50.125 MHz and they will monitor 28.885 MHz. Schedule as follows: FN16 June 20 2300Z-June 21 0200Z and June 21 1100Z-1400Z; FN26 June 21 2300Z-June 22 0200Z and June 22 1100Z-1400Z; FN27 June 22 2300Z-June 23 0200Z and June 23 1100-1400Z; FN17 June 23 2300Z-June 24 0200Z and June 24 1100-1400Z; FN18 June 24 2300Z-June 25 0200Z and June 25 1100Z-1400Z. They plan to be running 350 watts to two 5 element beams. QSL w/SASE should be sent to K8WKZ, David L. Bostedor, 8030 Greenes Dr., Jackson, MI 49201. Ed-these grid squares surround the eastern 2/3rd of Lake Superior, some are in upper Michigan. Tnx UKSMG.

Gordon West M/M at CM92/CM9/DM02/DM03?

From the April 1993 West Coast VHFer, Gordon West, WB6NOA, plans to operate from relatively rare grid intersections well off the Southern California coast on Saturday or Sunday during the June VHF contest with gear for six, two, 432, 1296, and 10 GHz.

"We will need steady seas for this operation" comments Gordon, "very large boats would take some time to get out to the intersection of these grid squares at sea, so we have decided to go with a faster small boat that could do up to 30 knots to get us way out in the ocean. It will take us almost six hours to get out to the grid square intersection with smooth seas, and we will listen on 144.170 MHz on our way out for propagation reports."

West will confirm his position using a Magellan 5000-D differential GPS receiver capable of position accuracy of 300 feet worst case, 100 feet nominal, from the constellation of 21 orbiting NAVSTAR GPS satellites.

This grid square intersection is at 33° N 120° W. Although the rules for VUCC allow multiple-grid square contacts with accurate location, rule (G) for the June VHF QSO Party states: "A station located *precisely* on a dividing line between grid squares must select only one as the location for exchange purposes. A different grid-square multiplier cannot be given out without moving the complete station (including antennas) at least 100 meters. The intersection of CM92/CM93/DM02/DM03 is about 30 miles SW of San Nicolas Island. All but DM03 are relatively rare.

St. Paul Is.

CY9QRV is expected to QRV on 6m July 1-5. Tnx N6CA.

Upcoming VHF Contests

ARRL June VHF QSO Party

The 1993 ARRL June VHF QSO Party begins 1800 UTC Saturday June 12 and ends at 0300 UTC Monday, June 14. The object is to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2° x 1° grid squares as possible using frequencies authorized to U.S. amateurs above 50 MHz.

The rules may be found in May 1993 QST or earlier years with the exception of Rover entries. There are five **categories** of entries: (A) Single Operator (both single band and multi-band); (B) Single Operator, QRP-Portable; (C) Rover; (D) Multioperator; and (E) Limited Multioperator.

The revised rules for **Rover** category are: One or two operators of a single station that moves among two or more grid squares during the course of the contest, and making contest contacts using the same equipment and antennas at each site, will be considered a Rover. Rovers sign "Rover" on phone and /R on CW after their call sign. The intent of the Rover category prohibits fixed-station scores to be included with Rover operations; stations may, however, enter the Rover category with a separate log for Rover activities. All Rovers are encouraged to adopt operating practices that allow as many stations as possible to contact them.

The **exchange** is the Grid Locator. Exchange of signal report is optional. One **QSO point** is earned for each 50- or 144-MHz two-way QSO. QSOs on 222- and 432-MHz count two points. QSOs on 902- and 1296-MHz count three points, and QSOs on 2304-MHz and higher bands count four points.

Entrants should remember that retransmitting either or both stations, or use of repeater frequencies is not permitted. This includes using two meter repeater frequencies for soliciting contacts. Use of the national simplex frequency, 146.52 MHz or adjacent guard frequencies is likewise prohibited. Use of 223.5 MHz is not restricted, however.

Participants are reminded that the segment 50.100-50.125 MHz is by convention reserved for intercontinental QSOs only.

Logs are due by July 14, 1993 at ARRL Contest Branch, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111. They may be ARRL June VHF QSO Party forms (which may be obtained from the same with an SASE with two units of first-class postage), a reasonable facsimile of same, or MS-DOS diskette.

Logs must indicate band, date, time in UTC, call signs and complete exchanges (sent and received), multipliers and QSO points. Multipliers should be marked clearly in the log the first time they are worked. Entries with more than 200 QSOs total must include crosscheck (duplicate contact) sheets.

1993 SMIRK Party Contest

The eighteenth annual SMIRK (Six Meter International Radio Klub) contest begins 0000 UTC 19 June 1993 and ends 2400 UTC 20 June 1993 (48 hours).

Exchange Callsign, SMIRK #, & Grid Locator. No cross-band or partial contacts allowed. No check logs or dupe sheets required.

Scoring: Two points for each SMIRK contact and one point for each non-SMIRK contacts. Score is total number of points times number of different grid squares worked.

Awards: Certificates will be issued for the high score in each geographical division.

All contacts between the contiguous 48 states must be above 50.125 MHz. Only contacts with stations outside the 48 states should take place below 50.125 MHz. This will help eliminate interference from our contest to DX operations.

To obtain a copy of the official log sheet, send SASE to Pat Rose, W5OZI, P.O. Box 393, Junction, TX 76849.

1993 CQ WW VHF WPX Contest

This is a world-wide VHF contest, scheduled for July 10 1800 UTCZ-July 11 2100 UTC. Complete rules may be found in May CQ magazine. All authorized amateur radio bands above 50 MHz may be used, as authorized by local law and license class. One point is made for each QSO on 50, 70, and 144 MHz. Two points are made for each QSO on 222 and 432 MHz. Four points are made for each QSO on 903 and 1296 MHz. Six points are made for each QSO on 2.3 GHz and above. **One additional point** is earned for CW QSOs.

Multipliers are the sum of prefixes and grid squares per band. Just what prefix to use is a bit complicated for stations operating portable outside their call area. The prefix for N16E/KH6 is KH6; however, KH6XX/8 operating in the eighth district cannot be considered a KH8 prefix, that is allocated to American Samoa. However, he could sign /W8, /N8, /K8, or any other prefix authorized in the US 8th call district. Suffixes like /M, /A, /E, /J, /P, /R or other portable or interim license class identifiers do not count as prefixes. A station in a US call area different than his callsign would indicate; e.g., N6CL, who chooses not to sign N6CL/5 would count as the prefix used (N6). Portable designators without numbers will be assigned a zero after the second letter of the designator to form the prefix; e.g. WA4VCC/PZ becomes PZ0.

This contest has eight classes of competition: (1) Single operator fixed station. (2) Multi-op class I fixed station. (3)

Multi-op class II fixed station. (The difference is that a class II multi-op is restricted to four or less bands above 50 MHz.) (4) Single operator portable station. (5) Multi-op class I portable station. (6) Multi-op class II portable station. (7) Rover station. (8) QRP station.

A rover station is one manned by no more than two operators, who move between more than one prefix and/or grid square and must sign "Rover" or /R. Contacts from your home station cannot count as Rover contacts (they can be submitted separately in a different category). It is not the intent of this class to encourage one operator to move from one super station another super station in another prefix or grid square in order to compete in this category.

A QRP station is one that runs 25 watts output power or less on all bands. There are no location restrictions you can operate from your home station or from the highest mountain you can find.

Exchange callsigns and Maidenhead 4 digit locator grid square. Signal reports are optional and need not be included in the log entry.

No, Nos! Contest entrants may not transmit on 146.52 MHz, or your country's national 2 meter FM simplex calling frequencies, or commonly recognized repeater frequencies for the purpose of making or soliciting contacts. Contacts made within your own country, in the DX window of 50.100 to 50.125 MHz are discouraged, as are contacts on the SSB calling frequencies of 50.110 MHz, 50.125 MHz, and 144.200 MHz.

An operator may sign only one callsign during the contest. This means that the operator cannot generate QSOs by first signing his callsign, then signing his daughter's, even though both callsigns are assigned to the same location. A station located exactly on the dividing line of a prefix and/or a grid square must choose only one grid square and/or prefix from which to operate for exchange purposes. A different multiplier cannot be given out without moving the complete station at least one hundred meters.

All contacts above 300 GHz must use coherent radiation on transmissions and employ at least one stage of electronic detection on receive.

You must request logs and summary sheets from: the CQ VHF WPX Contest, CQ magazine, 76 N. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801. Please include a SASE with your request. Completed logs must be postmarked no later than August 31, 1993 to be eligible for awards. All logs should be mailed to Joe Lynch, N6CL, VHF WPX Contest Chairman, P.O. Box 73, Oklahoma City, OK 73101. Please mark "VHF Contest Logs" on the envelope. Logs may be submitted on disk, provided a hard copy of the log is send with the disk and the data is in an ASCII format compatible with an IBM-PC type computer.

Summer Sporadic-E Contest

The UK Six Meter Group is holding its third Summer Sporadic-E Contest on Saturday June 5, 1993 from 0000-2400Z. You do not have to be a member to participate. There are four classes of entries: (1) single operator fixed stations, (2) SWLs, (3) Novice stations, and (4) all others including portable and multi-op. Apparently Europe will also be judged separately from the rest of the world.

Two-way QSOs on 6m and crossband QSOs with coun-

tries without 6m allocations are allowed. Only one QSO with each station is allowed. All license conditions must be observed, and QSOs within your own continent must be outside the DX window of 50.110 - 50.130 MHz.

Exchange callsigns, RST, membership number (if you have one) and Maidenhead grid locator, one the four digits are required, however, serial numbers are not required.

One point per contact plus one additional point if it is with a UKSMG member, then multiply this by the total number of countries worked (include your own) and multiply this by the total number of grid squares worked.

Copies of the entry form and log sheets are available now from Cliff (G1IOV), contest manager. Please include a large SASE. Entries should be postmarked no later than July 7, 1993 and sent to: The Contest Manager, UKSMG. G1IOV, Cliff Bell, The Corner House, Church Rd., Mortimer West End, Reading, Berkshire, RG7-2HY.

1993 Spring VHF Observations by FO5DR

Date	YV4AB	KH6bcns	KH6TVch	2	3	4	5	Other
0311	2030-2045							
0313	2030-2150							
0314	2045-2130							
	2155-2250							
0315	1815-1845							
	2230-2335							
0317	0005-0105							
0318	1900-1945							
	2135-2240							
0319	2005-2040							
	2200-2305							
0324	1740							
0325	0110							0055 TI2NA
	2305-0015							
0326		0540-0640	0540-0640	X	X			0640-0645@
0327		0625-0825	0625-0825	X	X	X		0725 VR6JJ
0328	2320-2340		0630-0830	X	X			
0329	0104-0109							0104-0109*
	1820-1915							
	1945-2000							
	2145-0030							
0330	2000-2330	0635-0835	0635-0835	X	X			
0331		0645-0700	0535-0735	X				
0401		0440-0520	X					
0402								0625@
0403	2005-0030	0500-0800	0500-0800	X	X			
0404	1845-1910	0540-0840	0540-0840	X	X	X	X	
0406	1955-1958	0550-0750	0550-0750	X	X			
0407								@
0408		0640-0643	(kh6hi only)					
0410	2145-2340	(in & out)						
0411		0620-0720	0620-0720	X				
0413		0635-0735	0635-0735	X				
0414		0700-0710	0420-0605	W				
		0650-?		X				
		0705-?			X			
		0715-?				X		
0416		0505-0630	X					
0421	1940-2015							

FO5DR went to France, his beacon is off, first 3 weeks of May.
 @ ZK1AA heard KH6 6m beacons
 * FO5DR heard K6FV beacon
 W Signals weak